

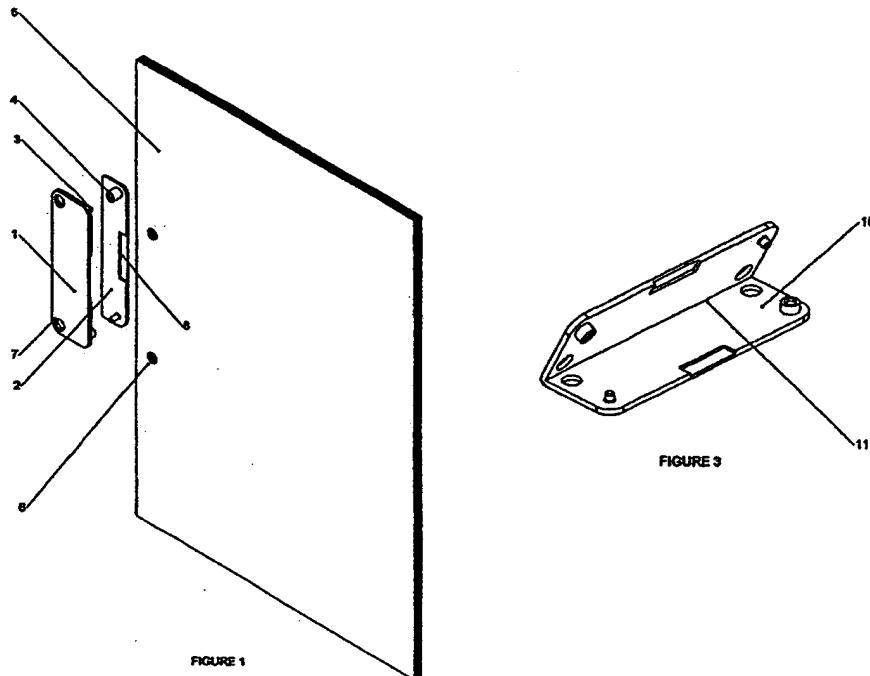
(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 356 172 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 16.05.2001

(21) Application No 9926367.5	(51) INT CL ⁷ B42F 11/00 3/00 13/12
(22) Date of Filing 09.11.1999	(52) UK CL (Edition S) B6E ECEC EDX
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(54) Abstract Title
Document binder clip to group together and sub-divide sheets in a ring binder

(57) A clip fastens documents 5 together and has holes 7 which allow it to be mounted in a ring binder (fig 2). A push-fit pin 3 and socket 4 arrangement can be provided to engage with holes 6 in the sheets 5. The clip can protect and strengthen the holes 6 in the sheets 5 and can provide rigidity to the back of the document 5. The clip is provided in a number of embodiments which include: a clip comprising a single part 10 divided by an integral hinge 11; identical and reversible parts (fig 4); a clip including a descriptive label (12, fig 5); a clip with a pen or pencil holder (13, fig 6); and, a clip with a separation aid (15, fig 7).



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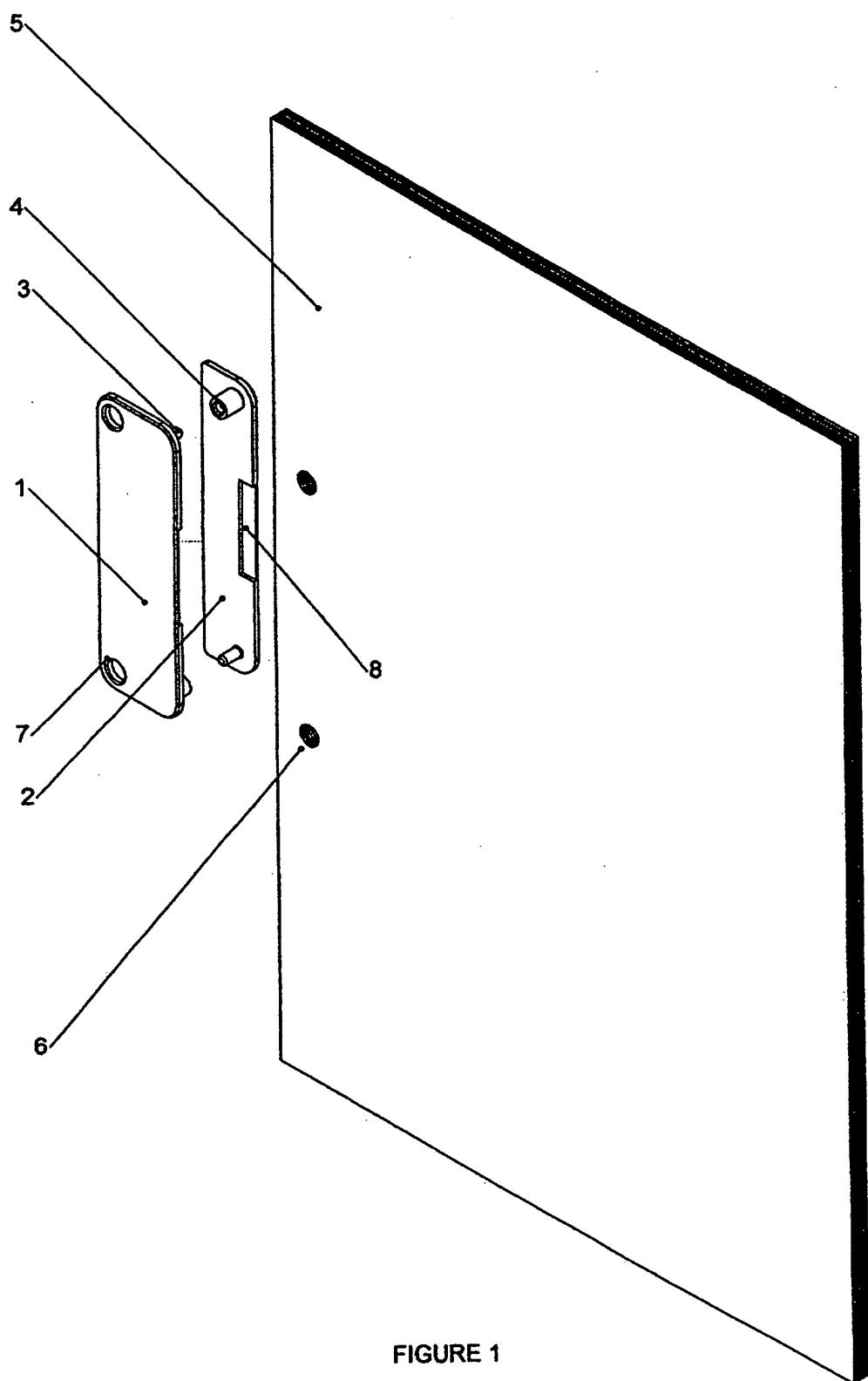


FIGURE 1

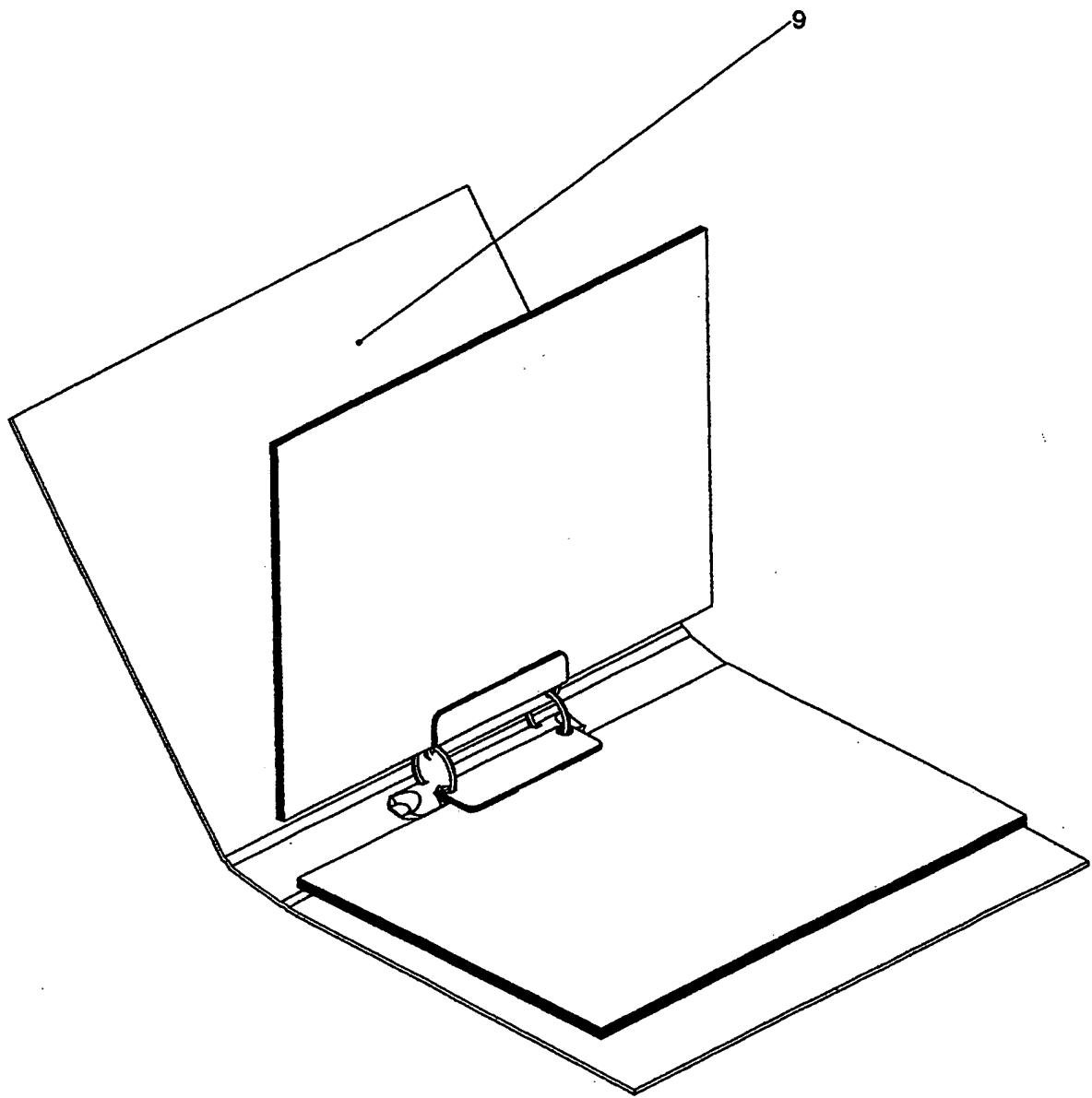


FIGURE 2

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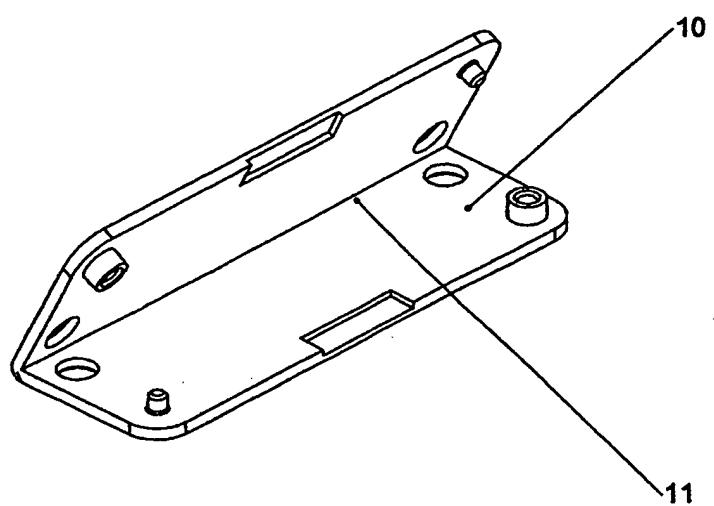


FIGURE 3

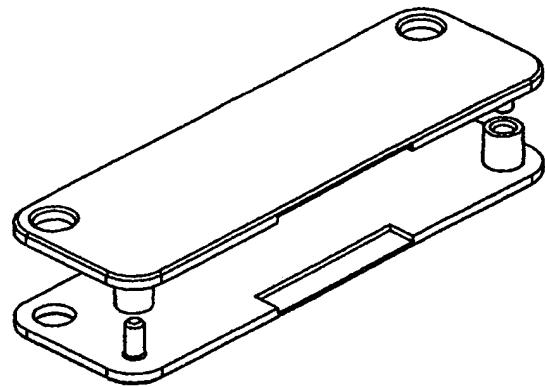


FIGURE 4

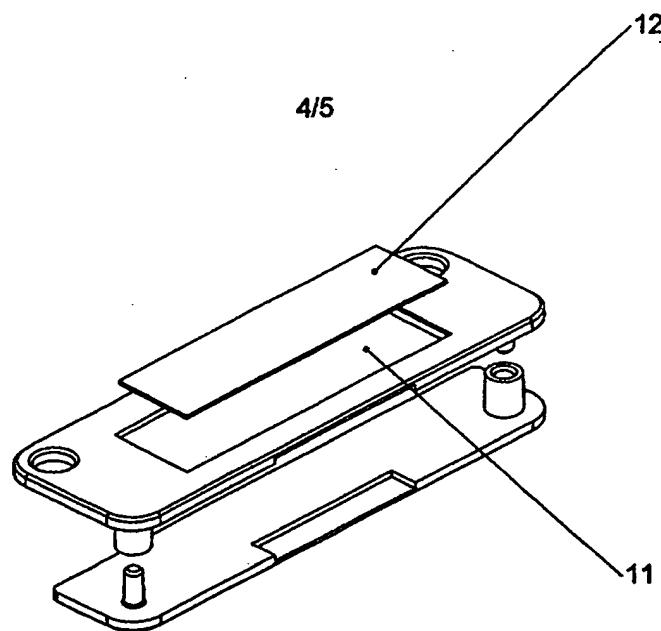


FIGURE 5

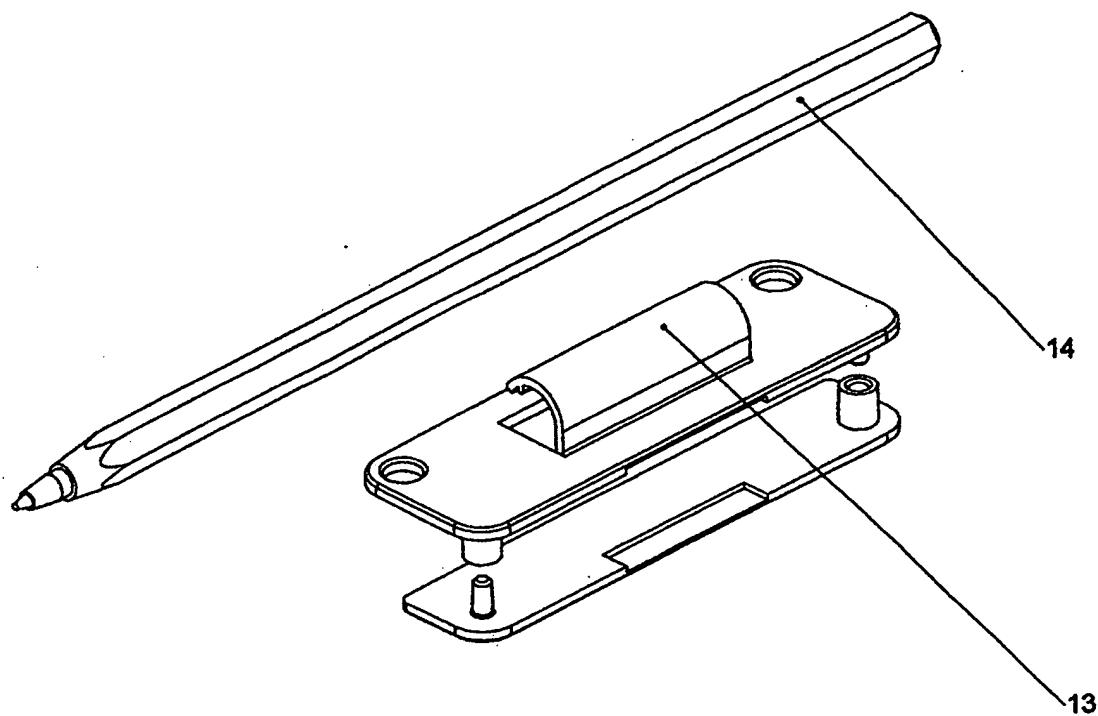


FIGURE 6

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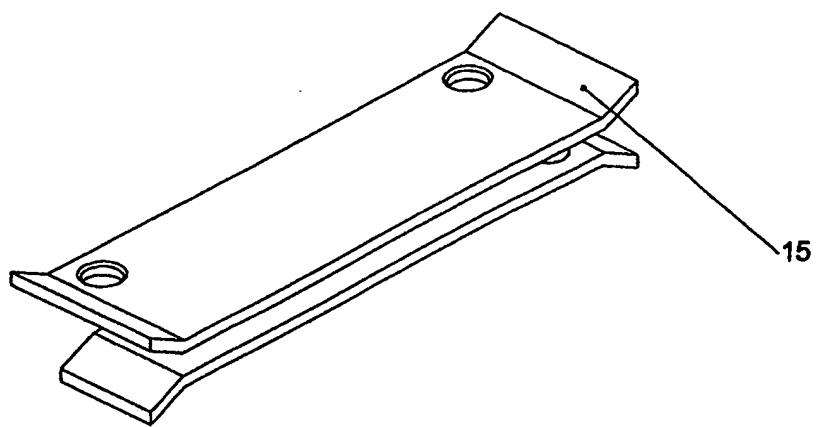


FIGURE 7

This invention relates to a document clip system.

Existing paper connection devices such as staples make separating sheets for individual access ie for faxing/photocopying difficult once stapled together while paper clips are non-permanent and paper is easily loosened. Both are awkward to use once filed ie in a ring binder, neither protect the punched holes (tend to rip easily) and both do not keep edges rigid. An alternative solution is to place documents into a clear sleeve which has pre-punched holes on one edge which can be placed into a ring binder. However to access the document it must be removed from the sleeve separating the sheets once again.

According to the present invention there is provided a clip that connects a number of loose sheets to create a document clip system. The clip is easily releasable and could have a variety of methods to connect the loose sheets into a document. The method we have adopted for the purpose of this application consists of a pin and hole push-fit of parts to connect the clip via pre-punched holes. Holes in the clip then allow filing/archiving in a ring binder or similar storage product to create an internal subdivided document system. The clip can then support the punched holes, protect the document edge and stop paper from being accidentally ripped out.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which :

FIG 1 is perspective view of a typical document clip with sheets ;

FIG 2 is a perspective view of a complete assembly with standard ring file ;

FIG 3 is a perspective view of an alternative single part hinging document clip ;

FIG 4 is an identical/reversible document clip ;

FIG 5 illustrates a feature to locate a descriptive label ;

FIG 6 illustrates a feature to store a writing instrument ;

FIG 7 illustrates an alternative feature to aid releasing parts;

Referring to the drawings a typical document clip is shown in FIG 1 and consists of a top plate 1 and clamping plate 2 each with a corresponding pin 3 and hole 4 which push-fit together thus connecting loose sheets 5 via pre-punched holes 6 to create a document. Holes 7 can then be used to store the document clip in a typical filing product 9. To release the parts to access individual sheets a feature 8 is used.

Figure 2 illustrates a typical assembly with document clip located within a typical filing product 9.

Figure 3 illustrates an alternative single part document clip 10 with an integral hinge 11.

Figure 4 illustrates an identical/reversible document clip.

Figure 5 illustrates a feature 11 to locate a descriptive label 12 to differentiate documents when in a storage configuration.

Figure 6 illustrates a feature 13 to store a writing instrument 14 ;

Figure 7 illustrates an alternative feature 15 to aid releasing parts.

The document clip could be manufactured in a variety of colours to guide the user to relevant coded sub-divided documents. Accordingly, the document clip includes a configuration that is simple and cost-effective to manufacture in high volume and can include a variety of sizes and shape variations. The length of the clip can also increase to provide extra support along the document edge.

Claims

- 1 *A releasable document clip which connects a number of individual sheets. Holes in the clip then allow filing in a typical storage product thus creating an internal sub-divided and easy access document system.*
- 2 *A document clip as claimed in Claim 1 which protects and strengthens pre-punched holes in the connected sheet material and also provides rigidity along the joined edge.*
- 3 *A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 comprising of a single part with an integral hinge.*
- 4 *A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 comprising of 2 identical and reversible parts that join through pre-punched holes to create a document clip*
- 5 *A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 wherein a feature is provided to store a writing instrument.*
- 6 *A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 wherein a feature is provided to store a descriptive label. The clip could also be colour coded to differentiate documents when filed in a storage product.*
- 7 *A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 where the clip could vary in depth to accept different document thickness*
- 8 *A document clip substantially as described herein with reference to figures 1- 7 of the accompanying drawing.*



Application No: GB 9926367.5
Claims searched: 1-8

4 Examiner: Brendan Churchill
Date of search: 22 May 2000

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:
UK Cl (Ed.R): B6E (ECEC, ECF, ECX, EDX)
Int Cl (Ed.7): B42F (3/00, 3/02, 11/00, 13/12, 13/14, 13/40)
Other: Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	DE 19900582 A1 (HOFFMANN) WPI Abstract Accession No. 1999-459926/39 and see particularly figures 78-80	1,7
X	DE 4431140 A1 (BLOCK) See figure 4 and WPI Abstract Accession No. 1997-021890/03	1
X	DE 1786225 (ANGERPOINTNER) See figure 1	1
X	US 5887900 (RAYMOND) Column 2 lines 24-56	1
X	US 4109348 (PRODUNIK) Whole document	1
A	US 3612709 (KING JIM) See posts 4 and sockets 5 on cover plate 1	-

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.